



News

March 2006

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European
Prison
Education
Association

EPEA Conference 2007

We can confirm the dates and venue of the **11th EPEA International Conference**. It will take place from the **13th to 17th June 2007** at DCU in Dublin, Ireland. Further details and an application form will be available to all members in **September 2006**.

New Branch

France has become the most recent country to form a branch of the EPEA. During the 10th International Conference on prison education held in Sofia in May 2005, the French participants came together to create an association in order to involve more French prison teachers and administrators in the work of the EPEA. Consequently the new branch, called the EPEA-France Association, was established in January 2006 and officially declared to the French authorities along with its constitution and its officers

Steering Committee

Chairperson: Janine Duprey Kennedy

Deputy chair: Dominique Delaporte

Treasurer: Jacques Morin

Secretary: Thierry Hanssens

Contact: J Duprey Kennedy

j.duprey.k@wanadoo.fr

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On behalf of the EPEA we would like to welcome the new branch and wish it well for the future.

EPEA Magazine

The next EPEA Magazine will be produced with Kristel Varm from Estonia as guest editor. As always the editors are seeking articles and items of interest. If you would like to contribute an article, or notify members of events and innovations, please contact Asbjørn Støverud at asbjorn@st.mailbox.as. Many thanks to Angela Alamino and Carmela Tilotta from Italy who were the guest editors of the previous Magazine. We would like to welcome Morten Enge onto the board of permanent editors.

Looking for proofreaders – In order to maintain the highest standards in our publications we are looking for volunteers to proof read future editions of the Magazine. If you are interested we would be delighted to hear from you. Again contact, Asbjørn for more details.

Reviewing the Constitution

There have been calls for a review of the EPEA constitution in order to update it and clarify certain procedures. The officers of the Steering Committee held a meeting in Oslo recently to determine what, if any, changes are necessary. Their suggestions will be brought to the next Steering Committee meeting in June. Following that it is intended that all proposed changes would be put to the membership for their consideration before ratification at General Council in June 2007. In the meantime, if you wish to contribute to the debate, or would like to be actively involved in the review, please visit www.epea.org for further details. Alternatively you can contact your LP or any member of the Steering Committee.

EPEA Project Compendium

By now all members should have received a copy of the **Compendium of EU-sponsored Projects relevant to Prison Education**. This is a useful publication for anyone considering involvement in EU-sponsored project work. Examples of, and feedback on, completed and on-going projects are outlined as well as information on how apply for project participation. The accompanying website, www.epea-projects.org, provides the ideal forum within which to contact perspective partners. If you have not received your copy, please contact Valentina Petrova at seec_vp@hotmail.com.

Internet Access in Prison

Internet Inside published by the UK-based Forum on Prisoner Education outlines a succinct and clear argument for the rationale behind and necessity for prison students to have access to the Internet. Copies can be downloaded at www.fre.org.uk

Nordic Conference 2006

Iceland is hosting the 12th Nordic conference entitled **Captivating Prison Cultures** from **18th to 21st May 2006**. 100 participants mainly from Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Iceland will attend. The conference will focus on the importance of cultural activities in prison and address such themes as the ethical culture, artwork, library, the culture of prison and prisoners and role of ITC for future prison education.

Council Of Europe News

Revision of the European Prison Rules - As outlined in previous editions of the Magazine, last year the Council of Europe began the process of reviewing and updating **European Prison Rules Recommendation No. R (87) 3**. Following consultations with members, the EPEA responded to the initial draft and we are delighted to report that the COE has acted in accordance with our suggestions. In fact, the wording proposed by the EPEA was accepted almost verbatim. We would like to thank all those members who responded to our request for feedback and ideas, and also the various branches and organisations that lobbied in tandem with us. It is heartening to see that we can and do make a difference not only in practice on a day to day basis but also at this important policy level.

Norway leads the way

The Norwegian Government recently produced a **White Paper on Education in Prison** that has directed parliament to strengthen the provision of prison education. The White Paper came about in response to a research-based evaluation of the prison education service carried out from 2000 – 2003, which in turn secured increased funding for prison education. It is a major achievement to have the concept and role of prison education not only debated in parliament but also acted on in such a positive manner. Our congratulations to FOKO (the EPEA's Norwegian branch) for the pivotal role they played in bringing the White Paper to fruition. Copies in English of the White Paper are available from our website.

Meanwhile, the UK government has delivered a Green Paper - **Reducing Re-offending through Skills and Employment**, produced by the Department for Education and Skills, Home Office, and Department for Work and Pensions.

Directors' Conference

The 6th European Conference of Directors and Co-ordinators of Prison Education will take place in Prague, Czech Republic from **21st to 24th September 2006**. It is being organised by the Prison Service of the Czech Republic, in association with the European Prison Education Association (EPEA). The conference is for those who administer or manage prison education at national or state level. The closing date for applications is **15th May 2006** and further details on the conference will be outlined in the next EPEA Magazine and on our website.

Election of Officers 2006

The following Officer positions on the EPEA Steering Committee will fall vacant in July 2006:

Treasurer (for 3 years)

Deputy Secretary (for 1 year & Secretary for 2 years)

It is essential that any member wishing to run for election to these positions completes and returns the official nomination form on time. Nomination forms will be sent shortly to Liaison/Contact Persons for distribution to their members. Alternatively you can contact directly Torfinn Langelid at the address below.

The nomination form must be returned by **15th May 2006** to the Membership Secretary:

Torfinn Langelid

County Governor of Hordaland

Department of Education

Box 7310

5020 Bergen

NORWAY

Fax: + 47 55 57 23 52

E-mail: torfinn.langelid@fm-su.stat.no

If more than one nomination is received an election will be held by postal ballot of all members. In that case the Membership Secretary will post a copy of the ballot paper and candidate details to Liaison/Contact Persons who will forward them to each of their members before the **1st June**. Ballot papers must be returned by **23rd June** to the Membership Secretary at the above address. The results of the election will be announced on the **30th June** after which the Deputy Secretary and Treasurer will take up office. Please contact any member of the Steering Committee or your Liaison/Contact Person if you have any queries regarding the election.